

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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EB-07 AID-05 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /054 W

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P R 261759Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONGEN PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, VE

SUBJECT: BURNHAM-ANDRES PEREZ MEETING IN VENEZUELA

REF: A) GEORGETOWN 1548 B) GEORGETOWN 1560 C) CARACAS 10076

FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON MEETING LAST WEEKEND OBTAINED FROM RUDY COLLINS, PERM SEC, FONOFF WHO WAS WITH GUYANESE DELEGATION. IT IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO INFO IN REF C.

1. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY, INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED. BURNHAM WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, FONMIN FRED WILLS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DESMOND HOYTE, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER HUBERT JACK, ATTORNEY GENERAL MOHAMED SHAHABUDDEEN, AND LESSER RANKING OFFICIALS. GUYANESE HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH MOOD WHICH THEY BELIEVE WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TWO CHIEFS OF GOVT. GUYANESE INTENTION HAD BEEN TO CREATE CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO FUTURE MOVES TO SETTLE BORDER PROBLEM RATHER THAN TO PRODUCE ANY SPECIFIC RESULTS. ORIGINAL INTENTION AT TIME OF JUNE VISIT TO GUYANA BY VENEZUELAN FONMIN ESCOVAR THAT THE TWO HEADS OF GOVT SIGN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WAS THEREFORE SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED.

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2. BURNHAM AND PEREZ CONFERRED AT FOUR SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS, AT TWO OF WHICH THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY INTERPRETER RUDY ISANALLY, GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO CARACAS. BURNHAM TOLD GUYANESE DELEGATION ANDRES PEREZ CLEARLY SIGNALLED HE WANTS DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF BORDER PROBLEM NOT SIMPLY POSTPONEMENT OF AGREEMENT OR RENEWAL OF CHAGUARAMAS PROTOCOL. BURNHAM AND PEREZ AGREED TO APPOINT A JOINT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES, BUT NEITHER SPECIFIED MAKE-UP OF COMMITTEE NOR SET TIMETABLE. ITEMS DISCUSSED INCLUDED CARICOM, NIO, SELA AND COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, WITH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL POSTURE.

3. BURNHAM HAD TOLD CABINET AND DELEGATION PRIOR TO TRIP THAT HE DID NOT WANT SHOPPING LIST TO BE PRESENTED TO VENEZUE- LANS NOR DID HE INTEND TO REQUEST ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. HE FEELS NOW CLIMATE CREATED BY MEETING WILL MAKE SPECIFIC ECONOMIC OR CULTURAL AGREEMENTS EASIER TO REACH. COLLINS BELIEVES BURN- HAM CAN NOW SIMPLY PICK UP THE TELEPHONE AND CALL PEREZ ON MINOR REQUEST OR PROBLEM, AND THAT RLATIONS WITH VENEZUELA ARE BETTER THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE.

4. COLLINS CONFIRMED THAT DECISION TO CHANGE LOCALE OF MEETING FROM ORCHILA ISLAND TO PRESIDENTS HOUSE AT OR NEAR MACUTO (REF B) WAS AT REQUEST OF GUYANESE. VENEZUELAN PLAN TO HAVE MEETING AT ORCHILA ISLAND WAS ILLUSTRATED BY FACT THAT PLANE SHOWED UP TO CARRY VENE- ZUELAN GROUP FROM MAIQUETIA TO ORCHILA SHORTLY AFTER BURNHAM PARTY ARRIVED. ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT WAS PROTOCOL FOUL-UP WHICH CAUSED DELAYED DEPARTURE.

MATTHEWS

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